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**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, October 5, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

Present – H. Rauenzahn, A. Molteni, D. Beane, J. Drayer (via speaker phone) - 4

Also present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, G. Zolna, and W. Wilkerson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Harriet Rauenzahn called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

**PRESENTATION – COMPOSTING**

Mr. Wilkerson questioned the participation of the Reading School District in the recycling program. He stated that if there was a profit, more schools may be willing to participate. Mr. Zolna stated that he would like more participation but there is no profit at this time.

Ms. Hoag explained that a Summit was held with advisors of Eco Clubs in several City schools and that recycling and composting were discussed.

Mr. Wilkerson stated that the Performing Arts School has begun composting.

Mr. Zolna explained that Cogle's Recycling separates the co-mingled items. Ms. Hoag suggested that this would be an interesting field trip for the EAC.

Mr. Zolna stated that he is scheduled to tour a facility in King of Prussia that separates items from a single stream. He stated that this is the future of recycling.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if all City schools were participating in the recycling program. Mr. Zolna stated that all schools are participating but some more than others. He stated that of all school buildings, Reading High is recycling the least. He stated that the program also includes pick ups at all City buildings including

libraries and fire stations.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned if there was an Eco Club at RHS. Mr. Zolna stated that he was unsure. Ms. Hoag stated that there would be a natural progression to RHS participation when those recycling in middle schools move up.

Ms. Rauenzahn described a process used at Kids Peace which composts paper and food scraps via red worms.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the City work with the County Ag Center to compost and sell to local farmers for use on their fields. He stated that this would decrease costs and increase income.

Mr. Beane suggested that RHS begin recycling bottles and cans at sporting events.

Mr. Zolna stated that the City currently does not have composting regulations. He distributed several samples from other cities.

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that the Gateway School for Performing Arts is composting. She questioned if schools had adequate land to accommodate composting. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that many City schools do not.

Mr. Molteni stated that there is also nowhere to use the compost in the City as most of it has been paved.

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned biosolids. Ms. Hoag explained that biosolids are what is left after the waste water treatment process.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Ms. Drayer, seconded by Mr. Molteni, to approve the August 24 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

## **EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS/EAC SUMMIT**

The first summit was held this afternoon at 4 pm. Ms. Rauenzahn updated the members who were not present on the discussion that occurred.

Ms. Hoag questioned if Catholic schools were recycling. Mr. Beane stated that all are different but that Holy Guardian Angels does.

Dr. Jennings arrived at this time.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would contact the private schools within the City to invite them to future Summits.

Dr. Jennings updated the EAC on the Albright program.

There was discussion of involvement of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The next summit will be held on Tuesday, November 30 at 4 pm in the Penn Room.

### **EPA GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Ms. Hoag noted the difficulty schools have funding their Eco Clubs. She suggested that grant funding be made available. She questioned if the District had a grant writer and suggested that the City's grant writer become involved. *Note: the School District does have a grant writer.*

Ms. Rauenzahn questioned what the funding would be used for. Ms. Hoag stated that the funding could assist with future projects and the costs of field trips. She noted her belief that this funding could greatly assist the schools.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will invite the City's grant coordinator to the next meeting.

Mr. Beane stated that many grants are awarded annually and that there would be a greater chance to receive funding if it is for educational purposes.

Ms. Hoag stated that this would be another way for the City and School District to cooperate.

Ms. Rauenzahn suggested that Ms. Katzenmoyer email those present at the Summit for possible projects and their anticipated costs.

Mr. Beane reminded the members that any grant application must be formally approved by the governing body prior to being submitted.

Ms. Hoag noted the need for oversight of the spending down of any grant funds received.

## **GROUPS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS**

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that Ms. Ortiz is no longer employed by the Conservancy. She stated her willingness to continue working with us through the planning process.

Ms. Ortiz suggested that we compile a list of local organizations that have an environmental focus.

Mr. Beane stated that this would be a great resource for future projects.

## **BCTV PROGRAM**

Ms. Rauenzahn stated that the program will feature Katie O'Brien from the Berks Conservation District who will speak on agricultural, soil and water issues.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- GRUB grant – Ms. Rauenzahn reported that Mr. Brantley has relocated to Philadelphia and will no longer be facilitating this project. She stated that the Conservancy is unclear if they will be replacing him with a full-time or part-time employee. Ms. Rauenzahn offered assistance as needed.
- Penn St Market – Mr. Molteni questioned the Penn St Market. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that October 1 was the last market date. She stated that there were three vendors who participated and downtown restaurants were featured weekly to entice downtown workers to enjoy lunch and buy produce.
- State of the Environment Breakfast – Ms. Rauenzahn stated that an invitation has been sent and encouraged all who are able to attend.
- Mr. Beane stated that the Chamber is holding a Renewable Energy Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza on October 16. He stated that he will forward the information to members via email.

- There was discussion of the need for a more diverse membership. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will speak with Councilor Acosta and the City's Diversity Officer to increase membership diversity.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, October 26 at 5:30 pm in the Council Office. Ms. Rauenzahn suggested that a future meeting be held as a luncheon.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer*  
Deputy City Clerk